

Animal Shelter

Animal Shelter

► Agency Mission

To provide humane care, food, and temporary shelter to stray and unwanted animals until they are redeemed, adopted, or euthanized, as required by the Virginia State Veterinarian and the Comprehensive Animal Laws of Virginia, and to provide resources and services necessary to improve County citizens' safety and knowledge of animals, and to improve conditions for animals in the County.

► Trends/Issues

Accomplishments

The highlight of the Animal Shelter's accomplishments was the acquisition of an automated shelter management system (implementation August 2001). This system will be integrated into upgraded web pages, to manage shelter records and serve as a database for volunteer programs. Community outreach and volunteer programs are now reaching into the Fairfax County Public School system to develop an internship program for high school students enrolled in the Animal Science Curriculum. Additionally, we have also partnered with the Department of Family Services Self Sufficiency Program, which is a back-to-work initiative, extended to individuals on public assistance. Community outreach has also participated in many community events, promoting the sale of dog licenses, animals shelter services and awareness.

Challenges

The challenges facing the Animal Shelter currently are to enhance public perception of the shelter and its services. There will also be a focused effort to increase pet adoption, dog registration (dog licenses) and owner compliance with the spay/neuter adoption regulation.

Changes for the agency during the last few years

The Animal Shelter and Animal Control (Police Department) divided into two separate and distinct units in 1999. This split resulted in the loss of four administrative positions for the former Department of Animal Control. The Humane Educator position was eliminated in 1999 as well. However, several of those duties were absorbed in the newly created Volunteer Service Coordinator position. The Volunteer Service Coordinator also serves as a liaison between the shelter and the community by establishing outreach and volunteer programs.

New initiatives

The shelter seeks to broaden its community outreach and automation by creating a database for animal images to be published on the County web pages and the County's kiosk system. In an effort to raise our profile in the southeastern region of the County, plans are underway to host two community events in that area. Additionally, working with Northern Virginia Community College, we hope to develop a professional educational training program to heighten the skill level of Animal Shelter staff.

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What's been done with increases/changes in recent years?

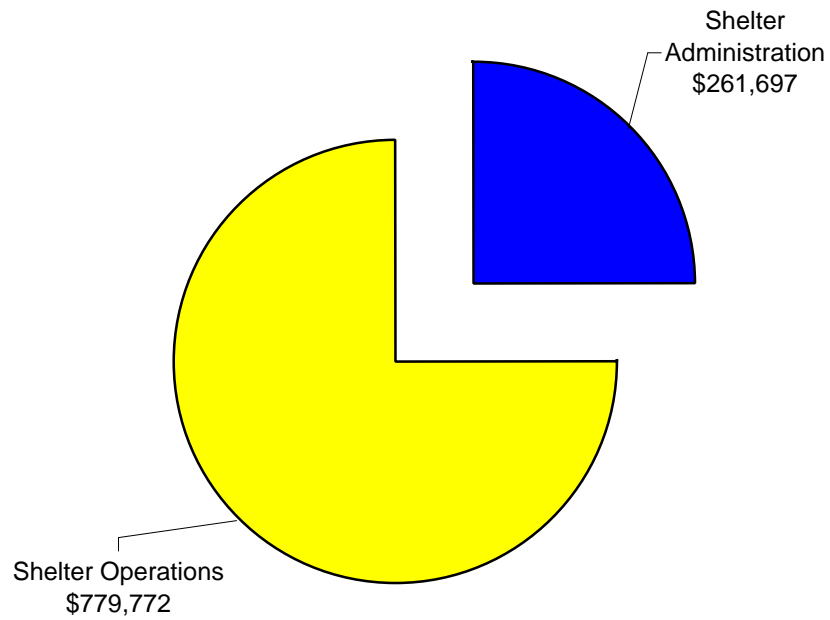
The addition of one Volunteer Services Coordinator position, which was filled in February 2001, has successfully participated in five community events to date. The agency also added another Clerical Specialist position in 2000 in the front office for Shelter Operations.

► **Summary of All Agency CAPS**

CAPS Number	CAPS Title	CAPS Net Cost	CAPS Number of Positions/SYE
96-01	Shelter Administration	\$261,697	4/4
96-02	Shelter Operations	\$441,048	15/15
TOTAL Agency		\$702,745	19/19

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Total FY 2002 Adopted Budget Expenditures = \$1,041,469

Total FY 2002 Adopted Budget Net Cost = \$702,745